

FEB 23 2004

003

OFFICIAL

Attorney Docket No. MP/177

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Bauman et al.
 Appl. No. : 10/666,204
 Filed : September 17, 2003
 Title : CIRCULAR STAPLER BUTTRESS

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on February 19, 2004.

Melanee Williams
 Melanee Williams

Group AU : 3731

Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b). Copies of each of the non-patent and foreign patent references listed on the attached Form PTO 1449 are enclosed herewith.

In accordance with § 1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above-identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, no additional fee is required.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric J. Sheets
 Reg. No. 30,326
 W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.
 551 Paper Mill Road
 P.O. Box 9206
 Newark, DE 19714-9206
 (928) 864-4015

Date: 19 Feb 2004

| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | | | Docket Number MP/177 | | Serial Number 10/666,204 | |
|--|-----------------|----------|---|-------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | Applicant(s) Bauman et al. | | | |
| | | | Filing Date September 17, 2003 | | Group Art Unit 3731 | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | 3953566 | 4/27/76 | Gore | 264 | 288 | |
| | 4592354 | 6/3/86 | Rothfuss | 128 | 305 | |
| | 4665917 | 5/19/87 | Clanton et al. | 128 | 334 | |
| | 5104025 | 4/14/92 | Main et al. | 227 | 175 | |
| | 5222963 | 6/29/93 | Brinkerhoff et al. | 606 | 153 | |
| | 5250058 | 10/5/93 | Miller et al. | 606 | 154 | |
| | 5263629 | 11/23/93 | Trumbull et al | 227 | 181 | |
| | 5346501 | 9/13/94 | Regula et al. | 606 | 151 | |
| | 5468253 | 11/21/95 | Bezwada et al. | 606 | 230 | |
| | 5713920 | 2/3/98 | Bezwada et al. | 606 | 230 | |
| | 5752965 | 5/19/98 | Francis et al. | 606 | 151 | |
| | 5908427 | 6/1/99 | McKean et al. | 606 | 139 | |
| | 5964774 | 10/12/99 | McKean et al. | 606 | 151 | |
| | 6165217 | 12/26/00 | Hayes | 623 | 11.11 | |
| | 6309423 | 10/30/01 | Hayes | 623 | 23.75 | |
| | 6325810 | 12/4/01 | Hamilton et al. | 606 | 151 | |
| | 6503257 | 1/7/03 | Grant et al. | 606 | 151 | |
| | 6592597 | 7/15/03 | Grant et al. | 606 | 151 | |
| | 6638285 | 10/28/03 | Gabbay | 606 | 151 | |
| | 6656193 | 12/2/03 | Grant et al. | 606 | 151 | |
| | 2003/0183671 | 10/2/03 | Mooradian et al. | 227 | 175.1 | |
| EXAMINER | | | DATE CONSIDERED | | | |
| EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | | | | | | |

Form PTO-A820 (also PTO 1449)

Patent and Trademark Office * U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

SHEET 1 of 1